

under prep.).

ADDITIONS TO THE APPENDIX

8. (32) **Lesser Frigatebird**
Fregata ariel (G.R. Gray)

One juvenile bird seen *c.* 1.5 km off the Anjuna (Bardez) coast, on September 18, 1998.

9. (412) **Red Knot**
Calidris canutus (Linnaeus)

A single bird seen among Sanderlings *Calidris alba* and Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* on Morjim (Pernem) beach, on September 18, 1998.

December 18, 2001

HEINZ LAINER

Praias de St. Antonio, Anjuna 403 509, Goa.

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19. FURTHER CHELONIAN RECORDS FROM MIZORAM
IN NORTHEASTERN INDIA

The turtles and tortoises of Mizoram State in northeastern India were virtually unknown till recently (Choudhury 2001, Pawar and Choudhury 2000). In these works, however, the Champhai district in eastern Mizoram was not covered. The district was formerly part of Aizawl district. The entire area is hilly; the highest peak is Lengteng (2,141 m above msl). A field trip was made in February 2001, during which two species were recorded which have been summarised below.

Brown Hill or Asian Brown Tortoise
Manouria emys (Schlegel & Müller 1840)

Two preserved shells were seen and examined at Lamzawl village, 1,000 m above msl. Both were reportedly obtained from the top of Lengteng (around 2,000 m above msl) (23° 50' N, 93° 15' E) and their meat eaten. The measurements are given in Table 1.

Earlier records from Mizoram were from Phura and Sangau in Saiha district (Choudhury 2001), and Dampa and Ngengpui Sanctuaries (Pawar and Choudhury 2000), all in western and southern Mizoram. These were the first records from the entire eastern part, that too from higher elevations (Fig. 1). The plastron pattern of these two specimens resembled the subspecies *phayrei* as did the specimens in Pawar and Choudhury (2000). However, those examined in Choudhury (2001) were similar to *emys-phayrei*

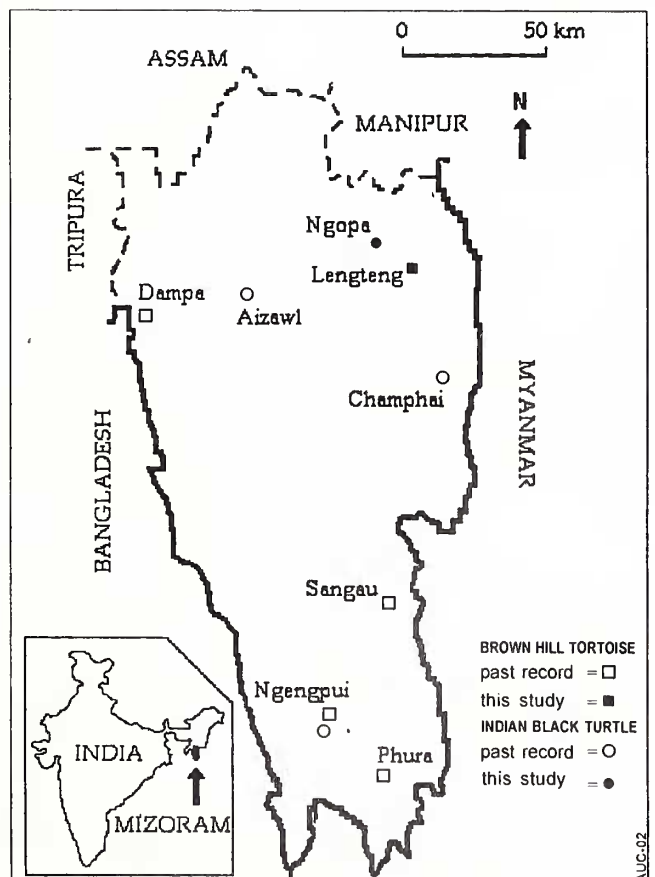


Fig. 1: Map of Mizoram showing the places mentioned in the text

Table 1: Measurements of specimens mentioned in the text (in cm)

Specimen/Site	SCL	CCL	SCW	CCW	PL(gt)	PL(n-n)	PW	Remarks
<i>Manouria emys</i>								
1. Lamzawl (Lengteng)	46.4	52.5	34.5	49.0	46.0	42.0	31.5	
2. Lamzawl (Lengteng)	39.7	46.5	30.0	41.5	39.5	36.0	25.0	
<i>Melanochelys trijuga</i>								
1. Ngopa	25.5	27.0	18.0	24.5	24.0	23.5	15.5	Weight 1.5 kg

SCL=straight carapace length; CCL=curved carapace length; SCW=straight carapace width; CCW=curved carapace width; PL=plastron length; (gt)=greatest; (n-n)=notch to notch; PW=plastron width.

intergrades. This significant variation in a relatively small area was noteworthy.

Indian Black Turtle

Melanochelys trijuga (Schweigger 1812)

A live turtle was examined at Ngopa town, 1,100m above msl. It was reportedly obtained from the nearby Tuivai river (around 450 m above msl; 23° 53' N, 93° 10' E) and kept as a pet. The river also marks the boundary between Aizawl and Champhai districts in that stretch. The measurements are given in Table 1.

Earlier records from Mizoram were from Ngengpui Sanctuary and adjacent areas of south Mizoram (Pawar and Choudhury 2000). The present record was the first

from the entire northern and eastern part of the State (Fig. 1).

I would also like to correct a printing error in Choudhury (2001). In Tables 1 and 2, (gt) and (n-n) were only meant for PL and not SCW or CCW as printed (see headers).

I would like to thank N.R. Pradhan, H. Tlangkhuma, Zomawia, Hakim and the Range Officer of Murlen for help during my field study.

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20. FIRST RECORD OF THE COPPERHEAD SNAKE *ELAPHE RADIATA* FROM MADHYA PRADESH

The Copperhead Snake *Elaphe radiata* (Schlegel) has hitherto been reported only in Eastern Himalayas, northeast Orissa and Bengal. It has never been reported from Central India. However, during field excursions in Kanha National Park (22° 17' N, 80° 30' E) situated in the Mandla and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh, I spotted this snake twice.

The first time was on July 26, 2001 at c. 1130 hrs in the Supkhar locality of the National Park. The dead snake was photographed and measured. It was 2.13 m in length. The specimen which has been preserved in the museum of the Kanha National Park was identified by Mr. Eric D'Cunha as *Elaphe radiata* and confirmed

by Mr. J.C. Daniel on November 9, 2001.

Another specimen was spotted during August in Parsatola locality with Mr. B.R. Nagpure, Range Officer, Kisli. These records not only extend the range of *Elaphe radiata* to eastern Madhya Pradesh, but also add a new reptile species to the fauna of Madhya Pradesh.

I thank Mr. Eric D'Cunha and Mr. J.C. Daniel for identifying the snake.

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21. NEW RECORD OF AN ENDEMIC SPECIES, *PUNTIUS OPHICEPHALUS* (CYPRINIFORMES: CYPRINIDAE) FROM TAMIL NADU PART OF WESTERN GHATS

Puntius ophicephalus, a rare barb having very restricted distribution, is known only from the Periyar

drainage of Kerala. It is characterized by an elongated *Channa*-like body. Raj (1941) described this species